

Truckers Convoy and Protective Services

Key Messages – February 2, 2022 2:30 PM

- Good afternoon. I will cover the situation in Ottawa first, and then move on to the Alberta protest.
- While we saw significant numbers of protestors in Ottawa over the weekend, numbers have dropped significantly in the last couple of days, with estimates of about 325 people on the Hill and Wellington Street Monday, and around 200 people yesterday. Numbers remain low today.
 - As of 1:00 PM, there were about 50 demonstrators on Parliament Hill and Wellington Street.
 - Another 30 or so have gathered in Confederation Park around an oil drum fire pit.
 - A crowd had also started gathering on Rideau Street, however the area surrounding the US Embassy remained clear and the Byward Market remained quiet.
- We are starting to see more organized counter-protests take place. There is one today at the corner of Metcalfe and Wellington, a small group of about 10 people.
- PPS have identified a Facebook livestream inviting concerned citizens to attend a “meet and greet” at Elgin Police Station between 4:00 and 6:00 PM with placards to discuss the situation downtown.
- The City of Ottawa has also received a permit application for a possible counter demonstration on Saturday February 5th. According to the application, the group is expected to protest around the convoy from noon until 7:00 pm. The organizer’s objective is to “peacefully March against the terrorists occupying the city centre with the goal to expel them and reduce the noise

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and fear they are causing to our citizens.” The organizer is expecting approximately 1000 people.

- In addition, we have information that additional convoys are making their way to Ottawa, with an expected arrival of Saturday, as well as a group of farmers similarly planning to attend downtown. Numbers are not available at this time, but there does appear to be the potential for heavy farming equipment to be part of the groups.
- In terms of updates, the City of Ottawa will be replacing the current temporary barricades of dump trucks for concrete ones. The Ottawa Police Service will be holding an information briefing for Members of Council and Ottawa Police Services Board members today from 2-4 PM.
- As you know, Ottawa Police are the lead in this situation; while RCMP resources have been deployed, this has been in support of our protective mandate.
- This morning I did receive a request for specific operational resources from Chief Sloly. While I am absolutely willing to help support our partners, we do have some limitations on what we are able to provide based on the operational pressures we are currently facing across the country, particularly with the various solidarity protests.
- I have advised him that we are looking into the extent to which we can assist, as well as flagging the issue that our members will need to be properly designated under the *Ontario Police Services Act* to be able to have the authority to enforce provincial legislation or municipal bylaws.
- The return to Parliament has generally gone smoothly this week. Over 100 Parliamentarians were on the Hill Monday and Tuesday, and I have been advised that approximately 55 MPs are on the Hill today. There have been no incidents with anyone entering or exiting the site.

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- We have moved to one rally point – Ottawa City Hall – in support of Parliamentary ingress and egress onto Parliament Hill, as we were not getting any requests on the Gatineau side.
- While we continue to locate social media posts encouraging for trucks to be sent to Harrington Lake, there is no visual confirmation that any trucks are heading to the area.
- Discussions are underway with OSGG to explore the feasibility of reopening the grounds of Rideau Hall to the public, which will be based on the threat and risk assessment.
- It is clear that the residents of Ottawa – as well as the Mayor and City Councillors – want this to end. However, how this will exactly happen and when is unclear. Ultimately, that is a decision that the City and Ottawa Police will be responsible for making.
- As of right now, it is still my understanding that the intention of Ottawa Police continues to be to use a measured approach and continue negotiations with the protest organizers.
- With respect to the situation at the Coutts, Alberta POE, the RCMP continues to maintain the perimeters at protest site. We have reached out to in excess of 80 different tow truck companies in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan for assistance. However, they have all declined.
- Our team has ongoing communication with the protesters. Unfortunately, this is progressively deteriorating into a tense negative situation as the protestors feel they have nothing to lose, and some have stated they are not leaving.
- Plans are being developed and we continue to attempt to secure towing services.
- We are continuing to see solidarity protests in Manitoba as well. As of this morning, the convoy in Emerson is approximately 3-4 semi-trucks and

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approximately 15 pick up trucks. Activity involves a slow roll 2-mile continuous loop along highway #75. Due to poor road conditions remaining from the blizzard yesterday, the Detachment Commander has established an agreement with event organizers that the trucks will not stop on the highway to impede traffic.

Current Statistics – Latest Data (estimates) – 1:13 PM
• Approximately 20-30 demonstrators are reported to be on Parliament Hill at this time. • Approximately 10-20 demonstrators on Wellington St. • A crowd is building on Rideau Street, however the area surrounding the US Embassy remains clear and the Byward Market remains quiet. • Approximately 30 people have gathered in Confederation Park around an oil drum fire pit.

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